

Dear Friend,

Article I, Section II of the Constitution directs us to count all the people in America every ten years – a process we call the census. But because the census only happens once every ten years, many people don't know much about how and why it happens.

The census does more than collect information. It gives the federal government an accurate picture of our community. This information is used to determine federal funding for things like schools, infrastructure, and public works projects. It also dictates how many seats in the House of Representatives each state sends to Congress. It's important that everyone participates, to give the Census Bureau accurate information about our community.

There are only two days left to mail back your census form . If you do not return your form by the deadline, a census taker may follow up with your household in person. Below, please find some frequently asked questions about the census. For more information, you can visit my website at <http://israel.house.gov>.

When does the Census take place? How does it work?

In March, census forms were delivered to every residence in the United States and Puerto Rico. Recipients are asked to fill out the short 10-question survey and mail it back in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you do not return the form, you may be visited by a census taker who will ask you the survey questions in person.

What if I have not received my form?

If you have not yet received your 2010 census form, you can call the Telephone Assistance Center at 1-866-872-6868. The center will be open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week until July 31, 2010.

How do I know the form I receive isn't counterfeit?

The Census Bureau form will be clearly identified as coming from the U.S. Census Bureau and marked as official business of the United States.

How can I be sure that my information will be kept confidential?

The Census Bureau cannot share a respondent's information with anyone, including other government agencies, and all census workers take an oath of nondisclosure. Violations are punishable by a fine of up to \$250,000, imprisonment for up to 5 years, or both.

Sincerely,

Steve Israel

Member of Congress